

# Staphaurex SOP

\*\*\* For additional information see package insert\*\*\*

## Principle:

Plasma coagulase tests are frequently used to assist in the identification of *Staphylococcus aureus*. The slide coagulase test detects cell-associated clumping factor, sometimes referred to as bound coagulase, which reacts with fibrinogen to cause aggregation of the organisms.

## Specimen Collection and Preparation:

Cultures may be tested from the primary culture plate if there is sufficient growth. A subculture should be made on blood or nutrient agar for subsequent testing. THE USE OF FRESH CULTURES GROWN OVERNIGHT IS RECOMMENDED. It is recommended that the culture should be Gram-stained in association with the latex test to confirm the staphylococcal morphology of the organisms.

## Test Procedure

1. Shake the latex reagent to obtain an even suspension and dispense a drop into a circle on the reaction card for each culture to be tested.
2. Take a mixing stick and pick up some of the culture by touching it with the flat end of the stick (approx. 6 average-sized colonies).
3. Emulsify the sample of culture in a drop of latex by rubbing with the flat end of the stick. Rub thoroughly but not too vigorously or the surface of the card may be damaged. Spread the latex over approximately half the area of the circle. Discard the mixing stick for safe disposal.
4. Rotate the card gently for up to 20 seconds and examine for agglutination, holding the card at normal reading distance from the eyes.
5. Dispose of the card into disinfectant – do not re-use.

## Reading of Results:

A positive result is indicated by the development of an agglutinated pattern showing clearly visible clumping of the latex particles with clearing of the milky background. Most positive reactions will be almost instantaneous.

A negative result is indicated when the latex does not agglutinate and the milky appearance remains substantially unchanged throughout the test. It should be noted that traces of granularity may be seen in negative patterns due to the particulate nature of both reactants.